

presented to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

On motion of Mr. Fraley, a Committee was appointed, to which was referred the Laws of the Society, with instructions to report whether any, and if any, what amendments shall be made therein:—and Mr. Fraley, Judge Kane, and Mr. J. G. Morris were appointed as said Committee.

There being no quorum present for the election of members, the following nominations were adjourned to the next meeting, by the members proposing them, viz: No. 271, by Mr. Fraley; 272, by Dr. Harris; 273 and 274 by Prof. Kendall; 280, 281 and 282, by Mr. Lea.

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*Stated Meeting, May 7.*

Dr. FRANKLIN BACHE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Present, twenty-seven members.

A letter was read from the Hon. Daniel Webster, Secretary of State, dated Washington, 13th April, 1852, announcing the donation of 21 volumes of Congressional Documents, for the Society's Library:—

And one from M. Michel Chevalier, of Paris, dated April 18, 1852, acknowledging the receipt of notice of his election as a member of the Society.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society. Vol. VIII. Part 1.

No. 29. Feb. 1852. London. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. Vol. XII.

No. 4. Feb. 13, 1852. London. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History; March, 1852. Boston. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

Flora Batava, of Afbeelding en Beschrijving van Nederlandsche Gewassen: door wijlen Jan Kops. Hoogleraar te Utrecht: vervolgd door P. M. E. Gevers Deijnoot, op Heidepark bij Nijmegen.

167 Aflevering. Amsterdam. 4to.—*From H. M. the King of the Netherlands.*

Information concerning the History, Condition and Prospects of the Indian Tribes of the United States :—collected and prepared under the direction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, per Act of Congress of March 3, 1847. By Henry R. Schoolcraft, LL. D. Illustrated by S. Eastman, Capt. U. S. Army. Published by authority of Congress. Part 2. Philada. 1852. 4to.—*From L. Lea, Esq., Commissioner of Indian Affairs.*

The Life of Major General Peter Muhlenberg, of the Revolutionary Army. By Henry A. Muhlenberg. Philada. 1849. 8vo.—*From the Author.*

Financial Report of the State Treasurer, for the fiscal year, ending Nov. 29, 1851. Harrisburg. 8vo.—*From W. A. Crabb, Esq.*

The American Journal of Science and Arts. Second Series. Vol. XIII. No. 39. May, 1852. New Haven. 8vo.—*From the Editors, Profs. Silliman and Dana.*

The Medical News and Library. Vol. X. No. 113. May, 1852. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From Blanchard & Lea.*

The Plough, the Loom and the Anvil. Vol. IV. No. 10. April, 1852. Philada. and N. York. 8vo.—*From F. G. Skinner, Esq., Editor.*

Journal of the Franklin Institute. Third Series. Vol. XXIII. No. 5. May, 1852. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From the Institute.*

The African Repository. Vol. XXVIII. No. 5. May, 1852. Washington. 8vo.—*From the American Colonization Society.*

Dr. Kane exhibited to the Society a number of specimens of vegetable matter found by him on the ice-plains of the Polar seas.

They consisted of the minute filaments and radicles of two species of moss, (undetermined,) mingled with the leaves and corticle of a heath, recognizable by the unassisted eye as the andromeda tetragona; the broken thalli of several lichens, and in one case, the capsule of a saxifrage.

These were collected at different times during the long ice drift of the late Grinnell expedition, and at distances from land varying from 40 to 76 miles. They appeared as almost microscopic specks upon the surface of the snow fields, and would readily elude casual observation. They had been undoubtedly conveyed from the shore

over the dry and polished surface of the ice by the action of the winds, and it seemed as if they might be transported in the same manner to indefinite distances, unless arrested by the continued intervention of open water.

Dr. Kane alluded to the infusorial dust of South America and Africa, and the diffusion of volcanic ash and scoria over extended areas, as also to the presence of acetic and hippuric acids, &c., in the atmosphere, as detected by Fresnel and Horsford. He believed, however, that this was the first instance of an analogous observation with regard to organized and vegetable matter, and he regarded it as having an interesting connection with the proto-coccus nivalis, and other growths upon a *naked* snow surface.

In reply to the questions of members, Dr. Kane stated that he had collected the red snow at a point within the Arctic Circle, as high as lat.  $76^{\circ} 15'$ , and from the shores of Wellington channel to those of Greenland. Throughout all this extensive range it *was in no case found* on snow devoid of other vegetable life. It generally occupied dependant valleys and grooves, and was found there in connection with the fronds of lichens, portions of mosses, carices, the catkins of the willow, &c. &c. The intensity of its colouring appeared to bear a certain marked relation to the quantity of such foreign matter present in these localities.

Dr. Kane added, that Sir Edward Parry had detected this singular vegetable organism on the distant Spitzbergen ice-fields, and Sausure, Baer, and others, on isolated Alpine slopes; but that, even in these cases, it could not be said that the snow surface was absolutely without a vegetable nidus. He had himself collected this snow 76 miles from any land, and from surfaces which, but for a critical examination, would have seemed altogether pure.

He did not wish his remarks to be understood as bearing upon the general question of the ability of snow water to afford the necessary ammonia for the supply of the plants, but as simply indicating for many of the heretofore "*isolated*" localities of the red snow, the pre-existence of a matrix of vegetable character.

Dr. Leidy read a paper "On Extinct Species of the American Lion," which was referred to a Committee, consisting of Dr. Hays, Dr. Ruschenberger, and Mr. Lea.

The election of members having been adjourned to this meeting, the Society proceeded to ballot for candidates.

All other business having been concluded, the ballot boxes were opened, and the following named gentlemen were declared, by the presiding officer, to be duly elected members of the Society:—

JOHN NEILL, M. D., of Philadelphia.

JOHN J. REESE, M. D.,                    ,,

Prof. J. S. HUBBARD, of National Observatory, Washington.

Prof. W. C. BOND, of Cambridge, Mass.

Dr. THOMAS B. WILSON, of Philadelphia.

Mr. JOHN CASSIN,                                 ,,

Prof. J. H. ALEXANDER, of Baltimore.

*Stated Meeting, May 21.*

Present, twenty-five members.

Dr. FRANKLIN BACHE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From W. Hunter, Acting Secretary, dated Department of State, Washington, May 18, 1852, announcing the return of Sayer and Bennett's Map of the United States, lent by this Society, in 1828, to the U. S. Government, for use on the question of the North-eastern Boundary:—

From A. D. Bache, Superintendent of the U. S. Coast Survey, dated Washington, April 6, 1852, accompanying a donation of sundry Coast Survey Maps, for the Society's Library:—

From Prof. J. S. Hubbard, dated Observatory, Washington City, May 10, 1852; and from Dr. Thomas B. Wilson, dated Philadelphia, May 19, 1852,—severally acknowledging the receipt of notice of their election as members of this Society.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Addresses delivered in the Hall of the House of Representatives, at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday evening, April 6, 1852, by William V. Pettit and Rev. John P. Durbin, D. D. Published